

Submitter: Shelly Lessard  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB976

To the legislators of Oregon. i can say that as a horse owner for over 60 years I am so excited to see this come to the table for discussion. As you are aware of the shortage of Veterinarians and I personally had emergencies and no vet available and or hours away. As a equine owner we are also are home vet's and better have some knowledge to treat emergencies until a vet arrives with medications on hand. Dentistry has truly came to the equine industry in the last 25 years. There is a tremendous amount to learn to do proper dentistry. Not all Large animal vets have had the intense schooling on just dentistry as the students who pay a tuition and spend \$1,000's on tools and months in school and get their certifications and then have to go under ground like a criminal! Dentistry is an art it can be the difference of a horse being in pain ,loss of weight and performance issues to be corrected by proper dentistry. I have heard both sides and Some Veterinarians are absolutely against equine dentistry and some do not like doing that service because it is hard on the human body. For many years even message therapists and equine Chiropractors have been illegal. A holistic approach to Horse care from Proper farrier service to Chiropractic and dentistry makes a well balanced comfortable horse. I as a Horse owner am aloud to sedate my own horse and I have zero formal training. A dentist has been trained and it is illegal and also puts the supplier of the drugs in serious situations to sell to the dentist. I would love to OHSU have a program just for large animal Vets to study for 4 years Just study the animals they want to service and then Job shadow for 2 years the Tuition would be reduced and the amount of Vets would increase. It is time to change the laws and give these Kids incentive to follow there passion and not be stuck in College studying reptiles and racking up absurd amount of debt to help the animals of their choice. passing this would bee a tremendous win for the equine owners.